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THE WORLD'S BEST
NEWS & FACTS
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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set to be
celebrated

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really enjoy

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2023
Summer of
Reading

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Making sense of the world

THE BEST
MAGAZINE FOR
CURIOUS
KIDS

THE WEEK Junior

THE GRAND CANYON

Explore the famous natural wonder in the Arizona desert **p12**

DID YOU KNOW?

- The canyon began forming nearly 2 billion years ago.
- Humans have lived there for at least 4,000 years.
- It was declared a US national park in 1919.



This week's big news



DID YOU KNOW?
The US federal court system consists of 94 district courts, 13 circuit courts, and the US Supreme Court.

Donald Trump

Who is Jack Smith?



Special Counsel Jack Smith, age 54, is from New York and has worked at many levels of state, US, and international government. He was a top lawyer in Tennessee. Smith has also investigated political corruption for the US Department of Justice and war crimes in Eastern Europe for the International Criminal Court.

Former President faces federal charges

On June 13, former President Donald Trump pleaded not guilty in a Miami, Florida, courtroom to charges related to his handling of classified documents after leaving office. He is the first US President to be charged with federal (national) crimes. Trump is also a candidate for President in the 2024 election.

What happened?

On June 8, Trump said on social media that he was being indicted (pronounced *in-dit-ed*), which means to be charged with a crime. The next day, Special Counsel Jack Smith confirmed the news. A special counsel is a lawyer appointed by the US Department of Justice (DOJ, the government's law enforcement agency) to investigate a case fairly, without any political bias. Smith based the charges on the findings of a grand jury (a group of citizens who decide whether there is enough evidence to charge a person with a crime but not whether the person is guilty) in Washington, DC. The documents were found at Trump's Florida home, so the case will proceed in that state.



The federal court building in Miami

What are the charges?

Trump is charged with 37 federal crimes. They include 31 counts of mishandling classified

government documents, four counts related to trying to stop the government from retrieving the documents, and two charges of making false statements. A search of his home in August 2022 uncovered documents he was not supposed to have taken with him from the White House. Further investigation found that some of those documents were classified (highly sensitive). These papers contained secrets about the US military, nuclear weapons, and other aspects of national defense. An aide to Trump, Walt Nauta, also faces six charges for allegedly helping Trump.

Why are the charges significant?

In addition to this being the first time federal charges have been made against a current or former President, the case has the potential to affect the 2024 election. Polls show that Trump is the leading Republican contender for President, and the case could last a year or more, spilling into the campaign season. Although no candidate from a major political party has ever done so, Trump can legally run after being indicted or convicted of a crime and can serve as President. The charges against him call for maximum prison sentences ranging from five to 20 years each, if he were convicted, although the maximum sentence is rarely applied.

How did people react?

In a video released on social media, Trump said he had not committed any crimes. "I'm an innocent man," he said. Other reactions were split along party lines. Many Republicans said the charges were unfair and claimed they were politically motivated because Trump is running for President. Kevin McCarthy, Speaker of the House of Representatives (half of Congress, which makes laws), said the indictment represented "a dark day" for the nation. Many Democrats pointed out that Trump will have the chance to defend himself in court. Senator Chuck Schumer and Representative Hakeem Jeffries, the two top Democrats in Congress, said in a joint statement, "No one is above the law—including Donald Trump."

What will happen next?

After Trump entered his not guilty plea in Miami on June 13, he was released and allowed to go home. He will return to court for this case on a future date, which had not been announced when *The Week Junior* went to press. In the coming months, Trump is also expected in court in New York, where he was charged in April with falsifying business records. He may also face charges in Georgia over claims he illegally tampered with the results of the 2020 election. The DOJ is also investigating whether he bears any responsibility for the riot at the US Capitol building on January 6, 2021.



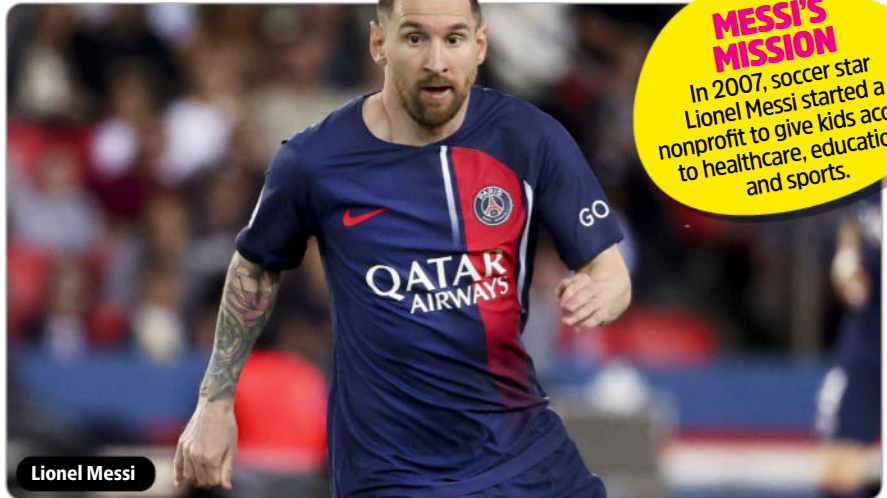
Severe wildfires across Canada

Canada is on track to have its worst wildfire season on record, government officials said. Hundreds of fires have burned over 12 million acres across the nation since April. More than 100,000 people have had to evacuate their homes, and hundreds of buildings have been destroyed. Experts say the number of fires is about 25% higher than average due to warming temperatures and drought (long period without rain).

When *The Week Junior* went to press, 445 fires were active in many provinces (similar to states), including Quebec, Ontario, and Alberta. About 1,000 firefighters from the US, France, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa traveled to Canada to help put out the fires. Rain had helped get fires under control in the province of Nova Scotia.

Smoke from the fires drifted into the eastern US, causing serious air quality issues as far south as Florida. In many areas, schools were closed and people were told to stay inside. On June 7, New York City briefly had the worst air pollution in the world. Air quality has since improved in the US.

A view of New York City on June 7



Lionel Messi

MESSI'S MISSION

In 2007, soccer star Lionel Messi started a nonprofit to give kids access to healthcare, education, and sports.

Lionel Messi will play in Florida

Lionel Messi, who is widely considered the greatest soccer player of his generation, said on June 7 that he will play professionally in the US. Messi, who won the World Cup with his native Argentina in 2022, will join Inter Miami CF, a Major League Soccer (MLS) team based in Florida.

At age 35, Messi has achieved nearly every feat a player can accomplish. Since becoming a professional in 2004, he has won 43 major honors, the second most of all time. That includes winning the Ballon d'Or, given to the world's best player, a record seven times. Messi is the only player to win the FIFA World Cup Golden Ball award twice. (That award is given to the top player in the tournament, held every four years.) He is the second player to score a total of 800 goals (he now has 806, which is 24 short of the all-time record).

Messi, whose contract with Paris Saint-Germain expires this year, is a free agent (not under contract with any team). He turned down an estimated \$500 million to play for a new league in Saudi Arabia. He also declined to return to his former club, Barcelona, in Spain, where he won three Champions League (top tournament in Europe) titles and the most major trophies (35) of any player in the club's 123-year history.

MLS has long sought to build a higher global profile. Messi is the league's most significant signing since UK star David Beckham joined in 2007. (Beckham is a co-owner of Inter Miami.) When *The Week Junior* went to press, Messi's contract had not been finalized, but it was said to be worth \$125 to \$150 million over two and a half years. He is expected to start with the team in July.



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A BIG BIRTHDAY

The largest crocodile in captivity celebrated what's believed to be his 120th birthday. Cassius, who is 17 feet 11 inches long, lives at Marineland Crocodile Park in Australia. "He still has a lot of spark in him," his keeper said.



Cassius



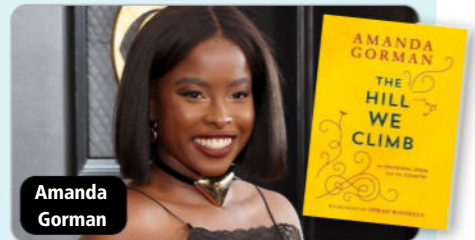
The cookie

BAKING UP A STATE COOKIE

A fourth grader baked a treat so tasty it's now Alabama's official state cookie. Mary Claire Cooke won a school contest with her recipe for Yellowhammer cookies, made with local ingredients like pecans, peanuts, and oats. State leaders, including the governor, approved it.

SOARING BOOK SALES

After a Florida school restricted young readers from accessing one of poet Amanda Gorman's books, people began buying it in protest—and now she's on the best-seller list. *The Hill We Climb* contains the poem Gorman read at President Joe Biden's 2021 inauguration. It was restricted after one parent made a complaint.



Amanda Gorman



HAVING THEIR SAY

About 52% of US adult citizens voted in the 2022 midterm elections, with many casting ballots before Election Day and by mail.



The US Supreme Court building in Washington, DC

Alabama fact file



The state flag

- **CAPITAL:** Montgomery
- **POPULATION:** 5 million
- **HISTORY:** Joined the US in 1819 as the 22nd state
- **GEOGRAPHY:** Borders four states and a small part of the Gulf of Mexico. Has mountainous terrain, farmlands, and forests.
- **ECONOMY:** Agriculture, manufacturing, transportation

Supreme Court upholds Voting Rights Act

By a vote of 5–4, the Supreme Court (highest US court of law) issued a ruling that upheld a key part of the Voting Rights Act. The decision means that Black voters in Alabama will have a fair opportunity to choose who represents them in Congress (branch of government that makes laws).

What is the Voting Rights Act?

The Voting Rights Act was signed into law in 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. It banned any voting practice that discriminated against people based on their race. Before the law was passed, Black Americans in some states faced unfair obstacles to voting, such as paying a tax or taking a literacy test. White Americans didn't have to follow these steps in order to vote. The act has since been expanded to protect voters with disabilities.

What was the Supreme Court case?

Alabama has seven seats in the US House of Representatives (one half of Congress), and 26% of its voting population is Black. In 2020, Alabama lawmakers redrew the map of the state's voting districts so only one district had a majority of Black voters. This resulted in one Black person being elected to the House. Voting rights advocates said the new map violated the Voting Rights Act, and they filed a lawsuit (legal dispute) against the state. A panel of three federal judges agreed and said Alabama must draw a new map. The state appealed the decision to the Supreme Court.

What did the Court decide?

The Supreme Court upheld the ruling of the panel of judges. Writing for the majority, Chief

Justice John Roberts said Alabama's actions had weakened the power of Black voters and race can be considered when drawing maps of a state's voting districts. The decision surprised legal experts because Roberts and a second justice who voted in the majority, Brett Kavanaugh, were expected to vote differently. Writing the dissent (disagreement), Justice Clarence Thomas said the Constitution (top law of the US) does not allow for a consideration of race when dividing up political power.

What will happen next?

The Supreme Court ordered Alabama lawmakers to create a new voting map. Other states, such as Louisiana and Georgia, may also have to redraw their maps as a result of the ruling.



WORD OF THE WEEK

BEETLE

We know today that there are only a few types of beetles that can harm humans, but people in the past clearly thought most of them could. The word comes from the Old English *bitela*, meaning "biter." Beetle can also be used as a verb, meaning to "scuttle or hurry about," just like the insect itself.



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

June 20, 1782

Great Seal of the US approved

On June 20, 1782, lawmakers approved the Great Seal of the United States. It is still used on official documents and paper money today. It depicts a bald eagle with arrows (a symbol of war) in one talon and an olive branch (a symbol of peace) in the other. The stars represent the 13 original colonies. The national motto, "*e pluribus unum*" ("out of many, one"), also appears on the seal.



The seal



Mike Pence

Candidates join Presidential race

Four more people have announced they are running for US President in 2024. Mike Pence, who was former President Donald Trump's vice president from 2017 to 2021, North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum, and former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie are running as Republicans. College professor Cornel West is running as a candidate of the People's Party. They join 12 other people, including Trump and President Joe Biden, in the race.



Performers in a Juneteenth parade in Galveston, Texas

DID YOU KNOW?

Juneteenth is also known as Black Independence Day, Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, and Jubilee Day.



Kimberly Akimbo

Top theater prizes are awarded

The 76th annual Tony Awards were presented in a televised event at United Palace in New York City on June 11. The ceremony, hosted by actress Ariana DeBose, was unscripted because TV and film writers are on strike. The Best Musical award went to *Kimberly Akimbo*, a comedy about a teenager with a rare condition. *Leopoldstadt*, about a Jewish family in the early 1900s, won Best Play.

US is set to observe Juneteenth

On June 19, the nation will celebrate Juneteenth, a holiday that marks the end of slavery in the US and recognizes Black history, culture, and achievements. The name is a combination of June and nineteen. It is considered the oldest holiday celebrating Black Americans.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared all enslaved people in the US free. But the Confederacy — made up of a group of Southern states that fought against the US during the Civil War (1861–1865) — resisted the order. On June 19, US troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to ensure the release of all enslaved people.

For years Juneteenth was primarily celebrated in Black communities. In 2021, President Joe Biden signed a bill making Juneteenth a national holiday. This year the holiday falls on a Monday. Government workers will have the day off, and many public schools and banks will be closed.

The occasion is marked with picnics and family gatherings. It's common to sip red drinks, a tradition that symbolizes the strength of Black Americans after enduring centuries of hardships.

A variety of events will take place in cities across the US. The Festival of the Carolinas, a four-day event that features drum circles, craft making, and African dance performances, will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina. A new basketball tournament called the Juneteenth Shootout will take place in Houston, Texas. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has some of the nation's largest celebrations, which include a historical festival and music performances.

Beyond the celebrations, organizers will emphasize that although federal recognition of the holiday is relatively new, the celebrations aren't. "What is so often lost is the story of the ancestors and elders that kept this history going," Sam Collins, co-chair of the Juneteenth Legacy Project, told *The New York Times*.



The flag for Juneteenth



The quarter

First Hawaiian woman on coin

The US Mint has released a quarter featuring Edith Kanaka'ole (1913–1979), the first native Hawaiian woman to be depicted on a quarter. It is the seventh coin in the American Women Quarters Program honoring women who have made contributions to the US. Known as "Aunty Edith," Kanaka'ole was a teacher and composer who helped to preserve Hawaiian history and heritage.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Clever raccoon orders a donut from Dunkin' drive-thru" *USA Today*





Around the world

Paris, France **Artwork shown for first time**

Sketches and paintings by the Finnish author and illustrator Tove Jansson will be shown in public for the first time this fall at an exhibition in Paris. Jansson is best known for her illustrated stories of troll-like creatures called Moomins. Jansson, who died in 2001 at age 86, also produced paintings, novels, and political cartoons during her lifetime. The exhibition will also showcase the work of other artists who inspired Jansson.



One of the sketches

Rome, Italy **Statues to go on display**

A collection of 2,300-year-old bronze statues will go on display on June 22 in Quirinale Palace after being restored. In 2021, a retired trash collector, Stefano Petrini, helped archaeologists (scientists who study objects left by people long ago) find the statues in the ruins of an ancient spa in the village of San Casciano dei Bagni.



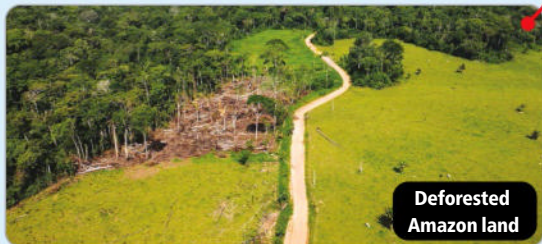
The statues being restored



Children at the mosque

Djenné, Mali **Children replaster mosque walls**

Thousands of people gathered recently to repair the walls of the Great Mosque in Djenné. The work is needed every year to protect the Muslim place of worship, which is the world's largest mud-brick building. The work is done before the start of the rainy season, which can wash away the walls. Buckets of mud and water were carried to the mosque, and children participated in replastering the walls in mud.



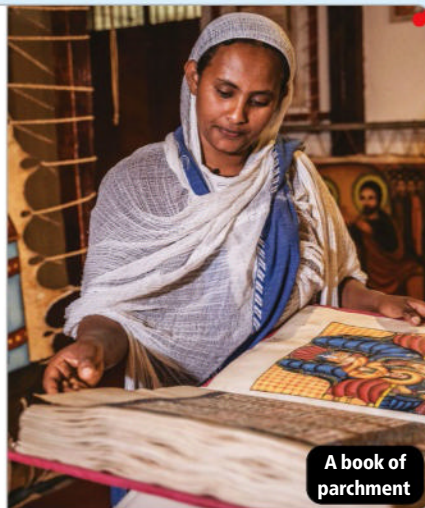
Deforested Amazon land

Amazon rainforest, Brazil **President pledges to end deforestation**

Brazil's president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (known as Lula), announced a plan to end illegal deforestation (cutting down large areas of forest) in the Amazon rainforest by 2030. Lula also pledged to replant as many trees as have been cut down. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, a harmful gas that contributes to climate change. Lula said the plan is "climate security for the world."

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia **Religious texts re-created**

Priests and worshippers are working to re-create ancient texts and artworks on goat skin, also known as parchment. The work began four years ago at a religious center called the Hamere Berhan Institute in Ethiopia's capital. The goatskins are stretched and dried under the sun before being stripped of hair and fat. Then text is carefully added with a bamboo pen and traditional inks made from local plants.



A book of parchment



Around the world



Flooding in Ukraine

Ukraine **Dam collapse floods towns**

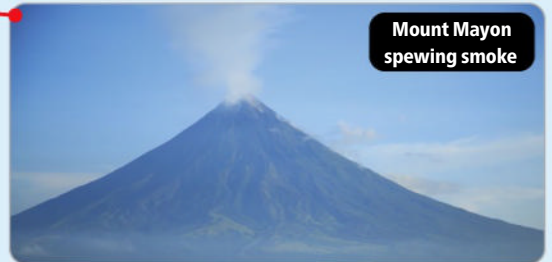
The Kakhovka dam in southern Ukraine that collapsed on June 6 has flooded nearby towns and farms and raised concerns about toxic waste. The dam is one of six on the Dnipro River, with one side controlled by Ukraine and the other by Russia. Both sides have accused each other of destroying the dam in the Russian-occupied city of Kherson.



Ibrahim with a toy he made

Syria **Brothers make toys out of trash**

A 12-year-old boy living in a camp for people displaced by war is making toys out of scrap materials. Ibrahim Al-Naes and his brother Ali left their village because of the war in Syria. With no money to buy toys, they collect items like cans and bottles and use scissors and tools to make them into mechanical toy vehicles. Ibrahim told the Al Jazeera news network he wants to someday be an engineer.



Mount Mayon spewing smoke

Mayon, Philippines **Volcano activity causes evacuation**

Nearly 13,000 people have been evacuated since Mount Mayon started to spew lava (hot liquid rock) and sulfuric gas on June 11. People living within 3.7 miles of the volcano have been told to leave, but more local residents could be evacuated if the eruption becomes more intense. The volcano, which is 8,077 feet tall, is the country's most active. Its last major eruption was in 2018.



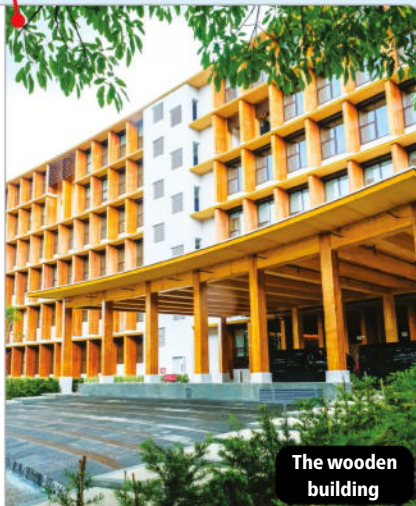
A lake on K'gari island

K'gari, Australia **Island's name is restored**

An island on Australia's east coast has been given back its original name, K'gari (pronounced "gurri"). For nearly 200 years it was called Fraser Island, in memory of Eliza Fraser, who was shipwrecked there. She told lies about the local Butchulla people, who have lived there for at least 5,000 years. K'gari is the world's largest sand island, known for its lakes and dingo (wild dogs).

Singapore **University opens building made of wood**

Nanyang Technological University has unveiled a new building made almost entirely out of wood. Named after the ancient Greek goddess of the Earth, Gaia, the six-story building is designed to make visitors feel as if they're walking through trees. Japanese architect Toyo Ito, who designed the building, told CNN he wanted to create a "connection with—and a feeling of—nature."



The wooden building



The big debate

Are exclamation points necessary?

The seemingly simple punctuation mark can stir up a lot of strong feelings.

What you need to know

- Exclamation points are used with an interjection or exclamation, like "Watch out!" They're also used at the end of a sentence to express significance or strong emotion.
- The exclamation point first appeared in writing about 600 years ago and is believed to come from the Latin word *io*, which means "joy."
- Exclamation points are sometimes called "bangs," "shrieks," "gaspsers," and "screamers" by journalists, writers, and publishers.



If a character in a book says "Duck," you might think they're pointing out a nearby bird. But if they say "Duck!" it's clear they're warning someone else to get down quickly, right? Punctuation, such as exclamation points, has been around for thousands of years and is an important tool for conveying meaning. It can indicate the end of a sentence, a pause, a question, or—in the exclamation point's case—a strong emotion or urgent instruction. But some writers think exclamation points are unacceptable and unnecessary. They say the writing should tell the reader everything they need to know. What do you think? Are exclamation points necessary?

Yes—they serve an important purpose!

Exclamation points are a valid punctuation mark that can be traced back to a 14th-century Italian scholar. No one would say the question mark was unnecessary—without it, how would we know the writer is asking something? In a similar way, exclamation points signal to readers that the words contain strong feelings. But they don't do all the work—the reader still has to figure out what the emotions are. Exclamation points can also keep people safe. For example, on road signs, they warn drivers of a hazard ahead. Of course, using exclamation points too often weakens their effect, but that doesn't mean they're useless.

No—they're the equivalent of shouting

Famous author F. Scott Fitzgerald once said that exclamation points are the same as "laughing at your own jokes." They make the writer seem a little desperate or like they're shouting at the reader—and no one enjoys being shouted at. They can also make the reader feel like they're being forced to have a specific feeling or reaction. Readers don't want to be told how to read, and they should be free to react to the words on their own terms. And a good writer doesn't take shortcuts. They can create emotions with just words and sentences, whether that's fear, wonder, or joy.

YES Three reasons exclamation points are necessary

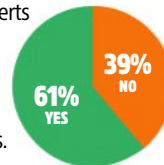
- 1 Exclamation points have been around for hundreds of years and are just as necessary as any other form of punctuation.
- 2 They signal that there are emotions in the writing but still leave room for the reader to figure out what those feelings are.
- 3 Exclamation points on road signs make drivers aware of hidden dangers.

NO Three reasons exclamation points are not necessary

- 1 Exclamation points make the writer seem desperate and even like they're shouting at the reader.
- 2 Readers don't want to be told how to feel, and they should be allowed to interpret the writing on their own.
- 3 The skill of writing is in crafting words and sentences that carry emotion.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week we asked you if conservation should focus on smaller animals. Most of you said yes, experts should be paying more attention to the little guys.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think exclamation points are necessary or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



Appreciating birds

Lifelong birder Christian Cooper is following his passion with a TV series.

Christian Cooper has been bird watching since he was about 9 years old. Now the birder and science writer, age 60, is highlighting the world of birds in a new National Geographic series, *Extraordinary Birder with Christian Cooper*. The first season will premiere on Disney+ on June 21.

In 2020, Cooper, a Black man, made national news when a white woman falsely accused him of threatening her while he was bird watching in New York City. A video of the incident spread on social media and sparked conversations about racial bias. When they learned what happened, producers at Nat Geo Wild approached Cooper about doing a show on birding.

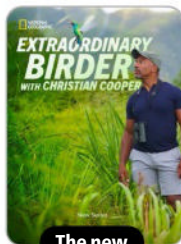
"I became, for a time, the most famous birder in America," Cooper told *The Week Junior* about the incident. He said being in

the spotlight again, this time with his new TV series, "feels great." Cooper said, "I am hopeful the series will be able to inspire a whole new generation of people to get outside and look and listen."

Cooper grew up in New York, the son of schoolteachers. His mom taught English and his dad taught science. His family's appreciation for nature fostered his interest in birds. Cooper loved how they communicate the way people do, primarily through sight and sound.

In each episode of the series, he visits a different location to see which birds exist there. In New York City, he views a peregrine falcon from the top of a bridge.

His advice to young people is to pay attention to detail. "It's great if you have binoculars, but if you don't, just use your eyes and ears," he said.



The new series



Christian Cooper

DID YOU KNOW?
Bird watching became a popular pastime in the US in the 1800s.

Illinois teen honored

Mia Fritsch-Anderson, an 18-year-old from Illinois, has been named a 2023 Prudential Emerging Visionary. She is one of 25 US teens to be recognized for their efforts to improve the lives of others. Fritsch-Anderson, who has asthma, founded Choose to Breathe to educate young people about asthma and to reduce the stigma around using inhalers. She makes colorful inhaler covers and distributes them to local medical care services to help people feel more comfortable using their inhalers.



Mia Fritsch-Anderson



Jason Zembuch Young

Award for a teacher

At the Tony Awards on June 11, the Excellence in Theater Education Award went to drama teacher Jason Zembuch Young. As the head of the theater department of a Florida public high school, he aims to ensure that the productions include deaf and hearing-impaired people. The shows are performed in both voice and American Sign Language, and they often feature a deaf actor in a lead role. A representative involved in the award selection process applauded Zembuch Young for "empowering every student to make and be part of theater." (For more on the Tonys, see page 5.)

OVERHEARD

“ ”



"I accept all versions of me because they've all made me who I am."

Padma Lakshmi, age 52, celebrity chef, activist, and author, who announced she will no longer host the hit cooking competition *Top Chef* after its 20th season



STAR QUALITY

Studies have shown that dung beetles use the Milky Way galaxy in the night sky to guide their path.



A dung beetle recycling animal waste

The value of beetles

There are at least 400,000 species of beetles on Earth. These insects play many important roles in their environments. Some species, including ladybugs, eat pests that would destroy crops. Others break down waste, improve the structure of soil, or transport a substance called pollen that helps plants reproduce.



A ladybug

Beetles help restore nature

About 60 dung beetles have been released into the Etang de Cousseau, a wetland nature reserve on the southwestern coast of France. The insects' job is to help restore the area's ecosystem (community of living things that affect one another).

The dung beetles are a keystone species. This means they are so important to the ecosystem that it could not exist without them. In the nature reserve, they will eat the dung (poop) of Marine Landaise cows, a breed of free-roaming cattle that live there. This will help to recycle important nutrients in the soil.



The location of the nature reserve

Dung beetles used to live all over the Landes de Gascogne region, but they disappeared in the 1960s when the number of wild cattle decreased. Because the cows are suited to living in wetlands, their population dropped when people began planting large numbers of pine trees in the region for wood. Now that the cattle have been brought back, a nonprofit organization called Rewilding Europe is releasing the beetles back into the reserve.

The beetles roll the cows' dung into balls. Then they push the balls into underground chambers so the dung can be eaten by other

adult beetles and larvae (young). According to Sophie Monsarrat from Rewilding Europe, this process "disperses organic matter and brings it below ground, creating rich soils that benefit plants and other animals." The beetles are also a source of food themselves—they are eaten by amphibians, birds, mammals, and reptiles.

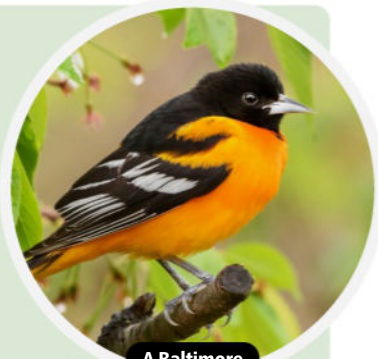
The dung beetles were brought in from another region of France. Before being set free, each one was cleaned and had a green dot drawn on its back to enable conservationists to identify the released beetles. The research team has also set up small metal shelters to protect the beetles from predators. They hope the new arrivals, which can fly, will breed and spread out to other areas, helping to restore the entire region to its natural, healthier state.



PLACE OF THE WEEK

The Niobrara National Scenic River, Nebraska

This 76-mile, free-flowing river was designated a National Wild and Scenic River, a place deserving of special protection and recognition, in 1991. It is home to more than 230 waterfalls, including Smith Falls, the highest waterfall in the state. Historic bridges dating as far back as the late 1800s span the river, which is a popular site for canoeing, tubing, and kayaking. About 160 plants and animals, including the Baltimore oriole, Pearl dace fish, and the American bison, live in the area. More than 90 species of butterflies have been seen in the valley.



A Baltimore oriole



MUDDY BUDDIES

In the summer, fur seals get so warm that they have to cool down in a mud bath.

These fur seals are surprisingly healthy.



Fur seals are safe from poison

Experts have found that Juan Fernández fur seals have been exposed to toxic metals but are somehow staying healthy.

The rare seals live around the Juan Fernández islands in the Pacific Ocean. A recent study of the seals' droppings found some of the highest levels of two metals—mercury and cadmium—ever seen in a mammal's poop. Cadmium is usually poisonous to mammals, but it doesn't seem to have harmed these seals.

The scientists think the seals might be getting the cadmium from tiny plants

called phytoplankton, which use the metal to turn sunlight into energy. Bigger creatures called zooplankton eat the phytoplankton. Those creatures are then eaten by fish, squid, and octopuses, which are then eaten by fur seals. Gradually, cadmium builds up in the seals' bodies.

The scientists think the seals have somehow adapted to resist the effects of the poisonous metal. More research is needed to find out how other species could cope with metal pollution, which is caused by human activities such as mining.

Animal of the Week

Seahorse

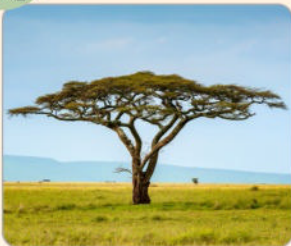


Researchers discovered that seahorses have a very powerful gulp, which helps them catch prey even though they have no teeth. Instead, two tendons (rope-like body tissues) act like springs and quickly pull in water to suck up their prey.

- **LIFE SPAN:** One to five years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Shallow tropical waters and reefs
- **SIZE:** Half an inch to about 14 inches long
- **DIET:** Small crustaceans, such as shrimp
- **FUN FACT:** Seahorses don't have stomachs but eat constantly—up to 3,000 brine shrimp a day.



Good week / Bad week



Tree conservation

Scientists used images from satellites to map every tree in Africa. They found that 30% of the trees aren't in forests but are scattered across farmland, grassy plains, and towns. The technology could help monitor tree loss around the world.



The ocean's twilight zone

Scientists say that life between about 650 and 3,300 feet below the surface of the sea is at risk because of the warming of the ocean. Species living in this zone could decline by up to 40% by the end of the century if temperatures continue to rise.



"How long do bears hibernate?" Paige, 9, Arizona

Kerry Nicholson

Wildlife research biologist, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game

It depends on species, cubs, and location. In cold parts of Alaska, brown bears and black bears can hibernate for seven to nine months! Black bears in Florida may hibernate for two weeks. Bears with newborn cubs will hibernate longer. Polar bears with no cubs may not hibernate at all.



A brown bear

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at adfg.alaska.gov.



All about the Grand Canyon

A magnificent marvel

The immense, awe-inspiring Grand Canyon is famous worldwide.

In the Arizona desert, a vast canyon cuts through the Earth. Nearly 40 layers of rock stripe its walls red, orange, purple, and pink.



A rock formation

How it formed

Nearly 2 billion years ago, intense heat and pressure formed the canyon's "basement rocks." The area was later covered by a shallow sea and, eventually, sand dunes. Over time, many

types of sediment (material moved by wind or water) settled on top and hardened into strata (rock layers). Between 70 million and 30 million years ago, pieces of the Earth's crust shifted and the region was pushed upward, forming the Colorado Plateau. Then, about 5 million to 6 million years ago, the Colorado River began cutting a channel through the rock. Water and wind gradually eroded more rock to form an enormous canyon.



Hualapai tribe members

Native American connections

Humans first encountered the Grand Canyon at least 12,000 years ago and have lived there for at least 4,000 years. By about 500 CE, a Native American group known as the Ancestral Pueblo settled in the canyon. They built adobe houses along its rim and grew corn, squash, and beans. Around the year 1500, they mysteriously abandoned their homes and new groups of people moved into the canyon. Many considered it to be sacred. In the 1800s and 1900s, the tribes were forced to move to reservations. Several groups, including the Hopi, Navajo, Paiute, and Hualapai, live near the Grand Canyon today, but only one—the Havasupai—still lives inside it.



CANYON CAVES

Within the Grand Canyon, 335 caves have been found. Experts believe there are about 1,000 hidden among its walls.

WOW!

The rocks of the Grand Canyon formed about a billion years before the oldest-known dinosaurs lived.

The Grand Canyon is about 18 miles wide, 277 miles long, and up to 6,000 feet deep.

Wildlife in the canyon

Birds

The Grand Canyon is home to nearly 450 species of birds, including the peregrine falcon (right), the fastest animal in the world.



Mammals

More than 90 species of mammals, from bats to bison, can be found in Grand Canyon National Park. Visitors often see elk and mule deer. Bighorn sheep (right) are the largest animals native to the canyon.

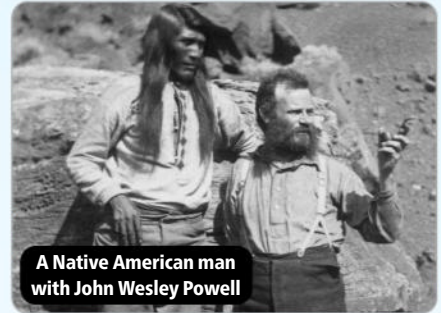




of the natural world



DID YOU KNOW?
The Grand Canyon is the largest canyon in the US and one of the largest canyons in the world.



A Native American man with John Wesley Powell

Exploring the canyon

Europeans first reached the Grand Canyon in the 1540s, led by Hopi guides. Warren Angus Ferris, a fur trader, likely produced the first map of the canyon in 1836, but it was not published until more than 100 years later. In 1869 and 1871, geologist John Wesley Powell led boat expeditions down the Colorado River. His reports helped to establish the canyon's reputation as a national icon. By the early 1900s, it had become a popular tourist site. Each year, millions of visitors still enjoy hiking deep into the canyon, rafting down the river, and exploring all that the Grand Canyon has to offer.



The canyon was made a park in 1919.

Preserving a wonder

In 1893, President Benjamin Harrison protected the Grand Canyon as a forest reserve. Then, 26 years later, US lawmakers designated it the ninth US national park. Because of its many well-preserved layers, the canyon has one of the most complete records of geological history in the world. It also hosts thriving ecosystems (communities of plants and animals) and a wealth of fossils from one billion years of Earth's history. Many people are working to protect it from human activities such as mining, tourism, and pollution. As a place of scientific discovery, spiritual connection, and amazing experiences in nature, the Grand Canyon remains full of possibilities.

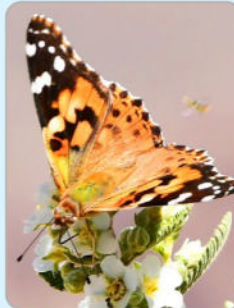
Reptiles

About 48 reptile species, including the yellow-backed spiny lizard (right), live in the park. The Grand Canyon rattlesnake can't be found anywhere else in the world.



Insects

There are 1,443 species of invertebrates—most of them insects or arachnids—in the canyon. This includes nearly 300 moth and butterfly species (like the one at right), as well as tarantulas and scorpions.





DID YOU KNOW?
The name “thunder beasts” comes from Native American stories about giants who appeared during thunderstorms.

An artist's rendering of a brontothere

Learning how “thunder beasts” got so big

A new study has revealed how brontotheres, a group of mammals known as “thunder beasts,” grew to be as big as rhinoceroses. These extinct (no longer existing) creatures were closely related to horses and the first mammals to grow to large sizes. The biggest of them stood more than 8 feet tall and weighed more than 6,000 pounds.

When dinosaurs still roamed the Earth, mammals were small, typically no heavier than 22 pounds. It was after dinosaurs went extinct 66 million years ago that mammals evolved (changed very slowly over time) to get bigger.

Few grew as big, as quickly, as the brontotheres. When they appeared about 54 million years ago in what is now North America, they weighed about 40 pounds, about the size of coyotes. They grew to their maximum size over the next 16 million years, which was fast in terms of evolution. “This group was reaching remarkable size increases in a relatively short period of time,” Oscar Sanisidro, an author of the study, told *National Geographic*.

In the study, researchers looked at the fossils of 276 brontotheres to see how the massive beasts evolved. One traditional

understanding of how animals evolve, known as Cope’s rule, suggests that all brontotheres would have gradually gotten bigger in a similar and fairly straightforward manner.

The new research found, however, that the evolution of brontotheres was not so direct. Instead, as new species of the mammal appeared, some were bigger than the previous ones, while others were smaller. Over time, the smaller

species were more likely to die out, while the bigger species were more likely to survive in the wild. “Our results suggest that such rapid increase in size is not a simple, gradual phenomenon,” Sanisidro said.

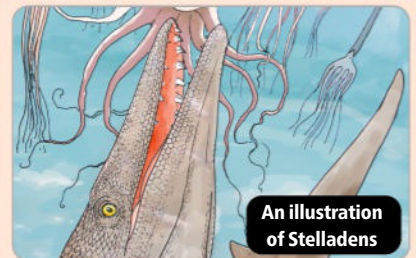
The larger species may have survived because they would have been able to reach food the

smaller animals could not have, and there would have been fewer other large mammals around to compete with them for resources. Ultimately, all brontotheres died out by the end of the Eocene period, about 34 million years ago. The study suggests a possible cause — as the climate got drier, the forests where brontotheres found their food disappeared.



An early, small brontothere (front) and a later, large one

Ancient lizard had strange teeth



An illustration of Stelladens

Scientists have identified a new species of mosasaur with uncommonly shaped teeth, based on fossils found in Morocco. Mosasaurs were large, water-based lizards that died out in the same extinction event that killed the dinosaurs. This newly identified species, *Stelladens mysteriosus*, had teeth shaped like the tip of a cross-head screwdriver, with four to six ridges running up and down the tooth. No other species of reptile is known to have teeth like this.

Scientists said that based on the teeth, *Stelladens* likely had an unusual diet, which may have included fish with a thin shell, like crustaceans. The discovery of this species suggests that mosasaurs were evolving at a fast pace before they went extinct.



Saturn found to have more moons than Jupiter

Saturn has regained its title as the planet with the greatest number of moons. Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system, held the title with 95 moons. However, astronomers (scientists who study space, stars, and planets) recently discovered 62 additional moons of Saturn, bringing its total to 145.

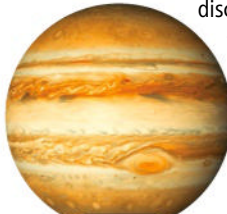
The newly found moons do not resemble Earth's Moon. They're small — no more than two miles across — and shaped like potatoes. They orbit about 6 million to 18 million miles from Saturn's surface, and most of them are clustered in groups.

Two international teams of scientists, led by Edward Ashton of Taiwan and Scott Sheppard of the US, used a pair of telescopes in Hawaii to

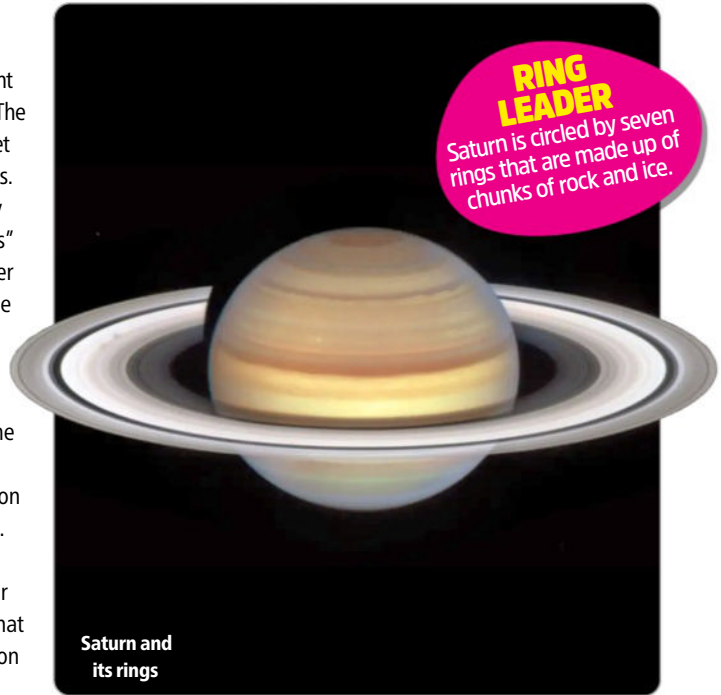
capture images of the planet. Then they layered multiple images on top of one another so that very small, faint moons would become more visible. The discovery made Saturn the first planet known to have more than 100 moons.

Astronomers believe the newly discovered "irregular moons" were created when larger moons crashed into one another and broke apart. The smaller pieces then began orbiting the planet. Some are moving in the opposite direction of the planet's rotation in what is called a retrograde orbit.

The researchers believe "there are potentially thousands" of similar moons around Saturn and Jupiter that have not yet been discovered, Ashton told *The New York Times*.



Jupiter



Saturn and its rings



This steak was grown in a lab.

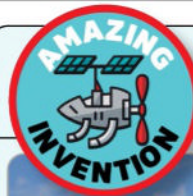
Lab-grown meat might not help planet

For years, companies around the world have been trying to create lab-grown meat. Scientists put animal cells (the building blocks of living things) in a special machine where they multiply. The cells produce tissue that's used to create foods like hamburger meat.

No animals are harmed with lab-grown meat, and scientists hoped it could also be better for the planet. Raising large quantities of animals requires clearing forest areas and

using massive amounts of water and food. When cows fart and burp, they also release methane, a gas that contributes to climate change.

New research suggests, however, that lab-grown meat could be up to 25 times worse for the environment than animal meat. Growing cells in a lab uses a large amount of electricity, which usually comes from power plants that release carbon dioxide — another gas that contributes to climate change.



A motorboat that packs up in a bag



The GoBoat

The GoBoat 2.0 is a lightweight, inflatable motorized boat designed for fishing, cruising, and exploring on the water. The circular craft, which holds one person, inflates in minutes and was designed to be sturdy enough for a fun game of bumper boats.

The GoBoat can be inflated with a hand pump and has three air chambers for extra stability. It's powered by a five-speed electric motor and cruises for several hours at up to 5 mph. When it's time to go home, the boat can be deflated, packed up in a bag, and stashed in a closet.



Photos of the week

**CLOSE-UP
PHOTOGRAPHER
OF THE YEAR
FINALISTS**

Optical illusion

Torn paper resembles a mountain range in this shot by Elizabeth Kazda.

Petal power

In this image by Kira Armstrong, a dahlia looks like flames.

KRISTINA ZVINAKEVICIUTE; ANDREW NEAL; ELIZABETH KAZDA; JANE VAN BOSTELEN; MATTEO GIORGI; KIRA ARMSTRONG



Flower in focus

Jane van Bostelen
zoomed in on the
tip of a calla lily.

Spot on

Andrew Neal shot
this photograph of
a ladybug on a poppy.



Pretty in pink

Matteo Giorgi took this
close-up of flamingo feathers.



Mirror image

Kristina Zvinakeviciute
snapped this picture of
a shell on the beach.



The NBA
Finals winners

DID YOU KNOW?

The last time the Denver Nuggets played in a championship series was in 1976.

Nuggets team history



The Denver Nuggets joined the NBA in 1976. Before that, they were part of the rival American Basketball Association (ABA), which was founded in 1967. The team was one of the ABA's original 11 members and named the Denver Rockets until 1974.

Denver Nuggets are NBA champions

On June 12, the Denver Nuggets became the 2023 National Basketball Association (NBA) champions after beating the Miami Heat, 94–89, in Game 5 of the seven-game NBA Finals. It is the first title in the team's history.

Entering the playoffs, the Nuggets were the top-seeded (ranked) team in the Western Conference. The Heat were the eighth and lowest-seeded team in the Eastern Conference, and they knocked out the top two teams in the East on their way to the finals.

The finals began in Denver, Colorado, on June 1. The Nuggets won the opening game, and the Heat took Game 2. The Nuggets then won Games 3 and 4 in Miami, Florida. In Game 3,

Nuggets stars Nikola Jokic and Jamal Murray each had a 30-point triple-double (reaching double-digits in points, rebounds, and assists), something two teammates had never accomplished in the same game in NBA history.



Nikola Jokic

For Game 5, the teams returned to Denver, where the Nuggets had a postseason record of 9–1. The Heat started off strong and led, 24–22, after the first quarter. Early in the second quarter, they had a 10-point lead. The Heat's defense was able to

keep the Nuggets' powerful offense in check, and they remained on top at halftime.

In the third quarter, the Nuggets chipped away at the Heat's lead. With just under seven

minutes to go, Murray drilled a three-pointer to tie the score at 60–60. The Heat had only a one-point lead by the end of the quarter.

Jokic took hold of the game in the last quarter. He scored eight of his team's first 13 points, which helped them build an 83–76 lead. However, in the span of two minutes, the Heat's Jimmy Butler made two three-pointers, three free throws, and a two-point jump shot to take back the lead. With 1:31 left to play, the Nuggets were up once more, 90–89. The Heat failed to score again, while the Nuggets made four free throws to seal the victory.

Jokic was named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the Finals. He averaged 30.2 points, 14 rebounds, and 7.2 assists per game in the series. In the postseason, he made NBA history by leading all players in points, rebounds, and assists.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

TENNIS

The French Open, one of the four most important international tennis tournaments of the year known as the Grand Slams, ended on June 11. The men's champion was third-seeded (ranked) Novak Djokovic. He now has 23 Grand Slam titles, the most of any male player in history. The women's singles winner was top-seeded Iga Swiatek, who earned her third French Open and fourth Grand Slam title.



Novak Djokovic



Iga Swiatek

SOCCER

Manchester City beat Inter Milan, 1–0, on June 10 to win the UEFA Champions League and become Champions of Europe. With the win, they completed a rare "treble," which is three major tournament wins in a season.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

On June 8, the Connecticut Sun broke the undefeated Las Vegas Aces' seven-game winning streak with a 94–77 victory. DeWanna Bonner scored a career-high 41 points for the Sun.



FUN FACT

Since 1993, college softball teams have used bright yellow balls with red stitching, which are easier to see than all-white ones.



The team celebrates.

Historic win for Oklahoma softball

For the third straight year and seventh time ever, the University of Oklahoma are the Women's College World Series (WCWS) champions. On June 8, the softball team defeated Florida State University to take the title. Only one other team, the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), has ever won three consecutive championships. The victory was part of a 53-game winning streak for Oklahoma, which began in February. It is the longest streak in college softball history.

The championship tournament began in May with 64 teams. Oklahoma was the top-ranked team and Florida State was number three. Eight teams made the WCWS, which was played at the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. To clinch the title, a team must win two out of three games in the final series.

The championship series was a rematch of the 2021 finals. In Game 1 on June 7, Oklahoma won, 5–0. Their pitcher Jordy Bahl threw all seven innings, allowed two hits, and struck out 10 batters. In Game 2 the next day, Oklahoma won, 3–1. In the third inning, Oklahoma's Jayda Coleman made an incredible catch at the center field wall to rob Florida State of a homer that would have driven in three runs. In the bottom of the fifth, with Oklahoma leading 2–1, Bahl returned to the mound. She pitched the rest of the game and did not allow a single Florida State runner to reach base. After the game, she was named Most Outstanding Player of the WCWS.

During Oklahoma's 53-game winning streak, the team outscored its opponents by 371 runs and never trailed by more than three runs.

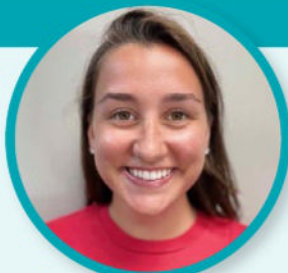


COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Amanda Blaha**

Team: **NOVA Swim**

"Coach Amanda has always been inspirational and has always cheered us on in everything we find difficult. Whenever we are struggling with something, she always makes sure we do it and our hard work pays off! I have had her for more than two and a half years, and she has consistently been supportive every time I struggled to master a stroke. Despite our time gains, she has always been happy with our swimming." Amishi, 13, Virginia



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Ethan Champlin

AGE: 21 SPORT: VOLLEYBALL
TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES (UCLA)

Getting started I grew up playing volleyball with my dad at the beach or in our backyard, but I never played organized volleyball until I tried out for my high school team as a freshman. As I got more familiar with the game, I noticed that it required a lot more strategy, mental toughness, and adaptability than other sports.

Standing out At practice, I focus on passing drills or ones where I have to hit high sets. Because I'm not one of the tallest or biggest players—I'm 6'3" in a sport full of players 6'7" and above—I need to differentiate myself by being a great passer.



Pre-match prep Mid-morning, I go to the training room and do a contrast bath. That is when you go back and forth between a hot tub and an ice bath about every two minutes. It gets the blood flowing and makes my legs feel really good.

Game plan I can't control many things on the court, but I can control my effort and attitude.

Top moment My biggest accomplishment was winning the national championship this year. It's what I always hoped to do as a player.

Big goals I've made the training roster for the US Senior Men's National Team, but I'd like to one day play in matches for them. I also want to win another national championship for UCLA.

His advice Being prideful might be nice when you play well, but it's going to be bad for you when you don't. The sweet spot is being content in your current standing while pursuing greater excellence.



DID YOU KNOW?

The graphic novel *Nimona* was a National Book Award finalist in 2015.



Graphic novel becomes film

The new animated adventure film *Nimona* has a bold, shape-shifting hero and a powerful message about acceptance.

An animated film based on ND Stevenson's best-selling graphic novel *Nimona* is heading to big and small screens. It will be released in select movie theaters on June 23 and arrives on Netflix on June 30.

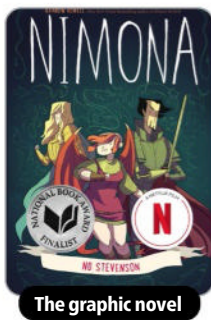
Fans of the book will notice some differences in the film, but the general story remains the same. *Nimona* is set in a futuristic medieval world where a knight, Ballister Boldheart, has been framed for a crime. He ends up being helped by Nimona, a funny and mischievous teen who is also a shape-shifter

who is considered dangerous. "It's a big, comedic action-adventure with knights, monsters, lasers, horses, and flying cars," co-director Troy Quane told *The Week Junior*. "Underneath all this are some honest and amazing characters that have an incredible message about acceptance and getting to know people around you."

Nimona is a complicated character. Although she is tough-talking, it covers up the fact that she "just really wants a good friend," co-director Nick Bruno told *The Week Junior*. On top of that, being a shape-shifter means

she doesn't fit into an expected mold, so she often feels different and misunderstood. Still, she doesn't try to change who she is to fit in. In fact, when she shape-shifts, she becomes pink animals, not natural-colored ones. "She wants to be recognized for the individual that she is," Quane said.

Although the film was made with 3D computer-generated imagery (CGI), it reflects the 2D style of a graphic novel. Viewers paying close attention will notice that characters appear more simplified from far away and more detailed close-up. Quane said this was intentional: "The closer we allow ourselves to get to someone, the more we get to see their full selves."



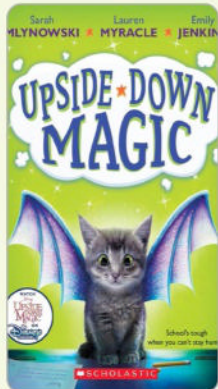
The graphic novel



More shape-shifting stories

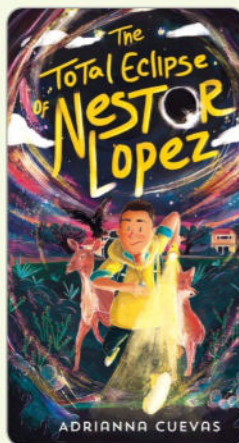
Upside-Down Magic

This series by Sarah Mlynowski, Lauren Myracle, and Emily Jenkins launched in 2016. It is set at a school for magic. The first book features a girl whose shape-shifting doesn't work the way it should.



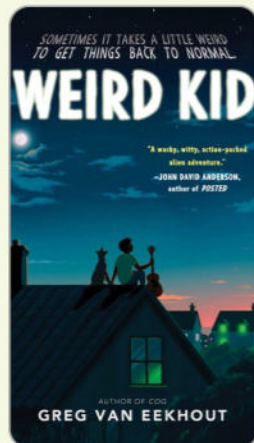
The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez

Adrianna Cuevas' 2020 novel is about a Cuban American boy who can talk to animals. When he moves to a new town, he needs to use his special skill to catch a shape-shifting witch called a *tule vieja*.



Weird Kid

In Greg Van Eekhout's 2021 sci-fi adventure, Jake is a 12-year-old who looks like a typical boy, but he used to be a pile of goo. When his town is filled with goo-filled sinkholes, Jake and his friend try to find out why.





WOW!

The Corning Museum of Glass houses more than 50,000 objects from the past 3,500 years.



A demonstration showing how to make an ancient zigzag pattern on blown glass

Exhibit shows ancient glass art

At the world-renowned Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, New York, a new exhibit highlights the origins of glassmaking and glassblowing. *Dig Deeper: Discovering an Ancient Glass Workshop* presents artifacts from Jalame, a 4th-century glass workshop. The exhibit also features an interactive experience. It is open through January 2024.

Nearly 60 years ago, scientists from the Corning Museum and the University of Missouri found Jalame's remains in what is now modern-day Israel. They excavated the site and analyzed the techniques used during that time period to make glass. Their findings have informed much of what people know about ancient glass today.

The museum's exhibit features about 75 objects from Jalame, which are on loan from the Israel Antiquities Authority. Many of the items

have never left Israel before. Visitors can touch ancient glass, see replicas of the excavation, and participate in a digital experience to learn more about what it was like to do research at the site.

Dig Deeper has a secondary exhibit that opens July 1. In *Get Stoked! Fueling Furnaces from Wood to Wind*, museum experts will provide live demonstrations of how objects were created at Jalame. They will use a wood-fired furnace that is made of clay and hay and can reach more than 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit.



An ancient jar

Katherine A. Larson, the museum's curator (person who chooses art) of ancient glass, told *The Week Junior* she wanted the exhibit to show visitors that "science, exploration, and archaeology are an ongoing process." She said she hopes it inspires young visitors "to be curious about the world around them and how glass is a part of that world."



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Our Planet II (Netflix)

The award-winning documentary series narrated by world-famous naturalist Sir David Attenborough is back. This season explores why animals migrate. Expect stunning landscapes and close looks at creatures on the move, such as a gathering of walrus in eastern Russia.



Stars on Mars (Fox) Mondays at 8 pm ET

This new reality competition series features 12 celebrities, including actors and top athletes, living in an environment that simulates life on Mars. They have to complete missions, and one person will be voted out each week. The goal is to be the last star remaining.



The Snoopy Show (Apple TV+)

Based on characters from the popular *Peanuts* comic strip, this animated series centers on Snoopy, a cheerful beagle. New episodes find him on a treasure hunt, leading a marching band, and having other imaginative adventures with his best bird friend, Woodstock.



READER RECOMMENDS



Secrets of Sulphur Springs (Disney Channel, Disney+)

"This show has three seasons. It is about the Campbell family and their son Griffin, who move into an old hotel in Sulphur Springs, Louisiana. Everyone thinks the hotel is haunted because a girl, Savannah, disappeared 30 years ago. In the first season, Griffin meets a girl named Harper, and he gives her a tour of the basement. There, he spots a bunker that lets them time travel. Will they use it to save Savannah? Is she really a ghost? I like that the show is scary and that you never know what is going to happen. I also like how they solve mysteries." Alice, 11, New York

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



FUN FACT

The Museum of Art and Digital Entertainment in Oakland, California, has 10,000 playable video games in its collection.



Planet of Lana

Solve puzzles in a sci-fi world

Planet of Lana is a new sci-fi puzzle game. It is out now for the PC and Xbox consoles. It was inspired by the films of Studio Ghibli, the famous Japanese animation studio that created movies such as *Spirited Away* and *Ponyo*, and has a hand-painted visual style.

Most Ghibli movies feature a brave young person forced to deal with dangerous events and powerful spirits, and Planet of Lana is no different. You play as a teen named Lana who lives on a beautiful planet. When her village is invaded by a mysterious alien machine army, Lana's sister, Ilo, is captured. Lana is able to escape the invasion, but instead of simply running away, she and a loyal cat-like companion, Mui, decide to find and rescue her.

To free Ilo, Lana must travel across the planet, where vast lands are dotted with little creatures and monstrous robots. The alien machines move in various ways that make hiding from them tricky. On the journey, Lana and Mui work together to solve puzzles using their complementary skills. Lana is strong and graceful, but when there is a place she can't reach or a corner she can't access, gamers can control Mui to get the job done.

A big part of the game is about trying to figure out who the invading aliens are and where they've come from. As Lana pushes further along in her travels, she must find and collect fragments of murals and shrines that contain the answers to most of her questions.



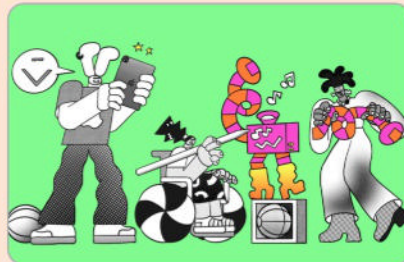
PODCAST OF THE WEEK

KEYSHAWN SOLVES IT

Apple Podcasts, Spotify, iHeart Radio
This series is set around Juneteenth, a holiday that recognizes the end of slavery in the US (see p5). It follows Keyshawn, a fictional 10-year-old detective who investigates why bikes for a parade in his neighborhood keep disappearing. He gets help from his friend Kiki and a set of magical keys.



CLASS OF THE WEEK



APPLE CAMP

apple.co/apple-camp
Every week through July 18, Apple stores in the US are offering free 90-minute classes created for kids ages 8 to 12. This summer's program, "Design Your Dream Invention on iPad," will help participants use Apple technology to work on developing ideas for helping their communities.



VIDEO OF THE WEEK

ARM MADE WITH LEGO BRICKS

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-LegoArm

David Aguilar, an engineering student in Barcelona, Spain, was born without a right forearm. At age 10, he built his own working prosthetic (artificial) arm with Lego bricks. Now a young adult, he tells his story in this video and shares how he continues to build prosthetics.





SUMMER OF READING FEATURED PICK

Haru, Zombie Dog Hero

The last year in middle school for Jordan, Drew, Liam, and other characters from the award-winning graphic novel *New Kid* is shaping up to be the most exciting one yet. Jordan, who loves to draw, gets accepted to a prestigious art high school. Plus, the whole gang is going to Paris, France, on a school trip! But the trip gets off to a rocky start. Instead of having the French and art teachers serve as chaperones, a science teacher

and the soccer coach fill in at the last minute. Some problems begin at the airport, and there is friendship drama about who will room together at the hotel. Immersed in another culture and language, everyone in the group feels like the new kid. When the

mood is going in the wrong direction, an unexpected classmate saves the day—more than once. The fast-paced storyline has many exciting twists. Will Jordan make his decision about art school? The references to French food, culture, and art are *très magnifique*. The comic panels are full of fun details. Jordan's comics are also sprinkled throughout the book.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

School Trip is all about relationships with family and friends, making it fun to share with people you know well in life. Use these questions to kick off your conversation.

Which character would you most want to have as a friend? Why?

What part of the book made you laugh the most?

How did being in Paris make each character feel like a new kid?

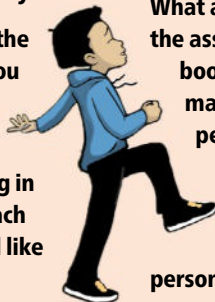
Do you think Jordan should be allowed to go

to art school? Why or why not?

What are some of the assumptions the book's characters make based on a person's race?

Is there a situation in the book that you've personally experienced?

What fun details did you notice in the artwork?



Our list of "The 50 Books Kids Love Most," details about entering our Summer of Reading sweepstakes, and more can be found at kids.theweekjunior.com/summerofreading.



Ask the Author Ambassador

Jerry Craft received many rejections before he published his graphic novel *New Kid*, which went on to become the first graphic novel to win a Newbery Medal. *The Week Junior* spoke to Craft about *School Trip*, the companion graphic novel to *New Kid*.



Was it difficult when your work kept getting rejected?

Yes, but it didn't stop me from making books. I ended up self-publishing more than 25 books before *New Kid*. When I'd visit schools to promote them, no one had read them in advance. Now I go to a school and there are 300 kids who have read my work.

Do you have a favorite letter from a fan?

Yes, one reader sent me an email that said, "I love your book so much because your book understands me."



What did you read as a child?

I loved comics. But there was nothing I hated more than reading books. I never found a book where I saw myself. I was a grown man reading to my own kids before I realized how much I missed out when I was younger.

Do you write the story or make the comic panels first?

I sketched out *New Kid* before I wrote the story. With *School Trip*, I wrote out everything as a script first. I wanted to make sure I tied up loose ends because it's potentially the last of the companion books.

Who is your favorite superhero?

Growing up, Spider-Man and the Silver Surfer were my favorites. Recently, seeing the movies with the Black Panther and the Spider-Verse made me feel 10 years old.

What do you hope kids take away from *School Trip*?

I hope kids know they deserve to find a friend group where they are celebrated.





How to...



DID YOU KNOW?

In a recent national survey, 93% of kids said their favorite book was one they picked out themselves.

Choose books you'll love

Make the most of summer reading with books you're likely to treasure.

Summer is a great time to read because it's all about choosing the books *you* want to immerse yourself in. With so many options, though, it can be hard to decide which books are right for you. Here's how to pick the ones you're more likely to enjoy.

Pick a genre

Thinking about stories you've enjoyed in the past can give you clues about what genres (categories) you prefer. Maybe you like fantasy fiction, which transports you to completely made-up worlds. Or perhaps you like historical fiction, made-up stories based on true events. Nonfiction is another option. Think about the topics that interest you, like a sport you love, a pop culture icon you admire, or an interest you have and want to know more about.

Ask for recommendations

After you've figured out what genres you like, you can start seeking suggestions for books to read. Visit the library and ask a librarian to guide you to the shelves that feature the genre you'd like to dive into. Another idea is to ask friends with similar tastes what books they have liked and would recommend. You can find a list of 50 recommendations from different genres at kids.theweekjunior.com/summerofreading and take the Summer of Reading challenge (see form at right).

Search for "readalikes"

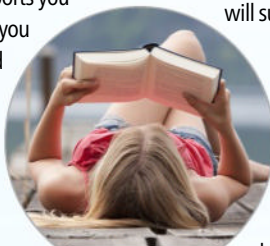
If you enjoyed a particular book, you may appreciate others that are similar in style, known as a "readalike." Look up an author whose book you liked in the past, and find out whether they have written sequels or other books you might enjoy. If you have read through an entire series and are looking for new authors, you can check out the site gnooks.com. You can put in the names of three authors you admire, and the site's search engine will suggest similar authors to check out.

Keep a list

As you're coming up with book ideas, write them down or save them in a note-taking app on your phone or tablet. When you have three to five books, pick one to read. If you still need help deciding, you can often read a few pages of the book for free on Amazon. You can also go to the site goodreads.com to check out other readers' reviews.

Take the pressure off

You won't love every book you read, and that's OK! No matter how far along you are in the book you are reading, if you don't like it, it's fine to stop reading it. When you take the pressure off yourself to finish a book you're not enjoying, you free yourself up to choose another book, which could be your next favorite.



Read what and where you like.

Make the most of your local library

Libraries are for more than reading. Here are a few of the other things you might be able to do at a local branch.

Get tickets

Many libraries offer free or discounted tickets to zoos, aquariums, museums, and baseball games.



Take home tech

Libraries may lend tablets, chargers, and more.

The Brooklyn Public Library in

New York loans out laptops to kids ages 13 and up.

Learn a hobby

Many libraries offer special classes, from knitting to photography. Some work with local astronomy clubs to loan out telescopes for stargazing.



Check out gear

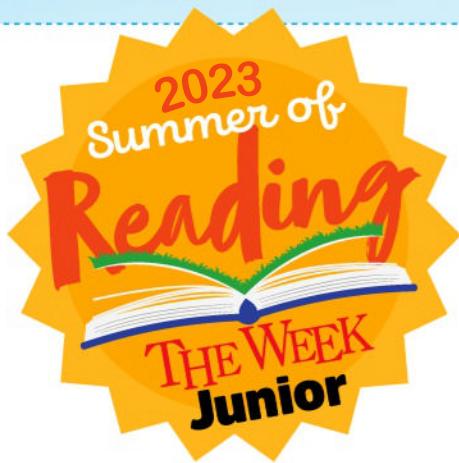
There are libraries that loan out gear for outdoor fun, from hiking boots to backpacks to camping tents.



Play games

Many libraries have games, including puzzles and board games, on-site. Some also have workshops to help kids learn how to play chess. They may also host tournaments.





Join *The Week Junior's* Summer of Reading challenge!

Just read three books this summer (any books you like!) and tell us what you think of them.

First name _____

Age _____ State _____

Parent/guardian's email _____

Book #1

Title _____

Author _____

Rating  (one is the lowest, three is the highest)

Your review in three words _____

Your longer review if you wish _____

Book #2

Title _____

Author _____

Rating  (one is the lowest, three is the highest)

Your review in three words _____

Your longer review if you wish _____

Book #3

Title _____

Author _____

Rating  (one is the lowest, three is the highest)

Your review in three words _____

Your longer review if you wish _____

Take our challenge!

Fill out this form and have an adult upload it to tinyurl.com/TWJUS-ReadingChallenge. When you do, you will be entered in our sweepstakes for a chance to win books and a personal video call with one of our Author Ambassadors. Five winners will be drawn at random. The deadline is Friday, August 11. For complete rules, go to theweekjunior.com/terms.



Parent/guardian's name _____

I am the parent/legal guardian of _____

I have read *The Week Junior* privacy policy and consent to allow my child to enter the Summer of Reading Sweepstakes.

Parent/guardian's signature _____

Find out more and get extra forms at kids.theweekjunior.com/summerofreading.



Puzzles



Word search

Can you find all these words associated with mail in the grid? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

ADDRESS
AIR MAIL
CERTIFIED
DELIVER
EXPRESS
FORWARD
JUNK MAIL
METER
OPEN
OUNCES
PACKAGE
P.O. BOX
POSTMARK
POST OFFICE
RETURN
SENDER
SORTED
STAMP
ZIP CODE
ZONES



M A L
I L I
A
M



C Z I P C O D E G A K C A P
D E T R O S O M R E O N S T Z R
E O A S S E R P X E P U O O S E
L T D O T P F F I O T J N C E D
I A I R M A I L C I B E N C T N
V H E A A D D R E S S O M G E E
E R T A R W N D R C A N P P Y S
R S O N K N R U T E R P O S T O F F I C E

O I
Y F
U I
L E
E D



ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.

OFF SIDES

Make three different five-letter words by using the letters given to fill in the blanks.

A C D E F P

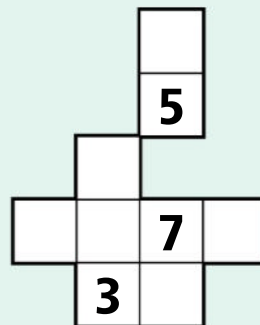
RAM

RAM

RAM

Out of order

The numbers 1 to 9 can fit, one per square, so that no two consecutive numbers are in squares that touch in any way, even at a corner. Use the numbers already given to figure out where the rest of the numbers go.



FILL IN THE BLANKS

Fill in the blanks in each sentence with two words so the second word is the same as the first word with a single letter changed, like DECODE and DECIDE. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

- I need to stay in the _____ end of the pool because whenever I go to the deep end, I _____ a ton of water.
- The old gate had a sign saying "Private _____, Keep Out," but it was rusted and broken so it no longer closed _____.
- During the fire drill, we _____ the school as quickly as we could, and then each class was carefully _____ and given a grade.

Spot the difference

These two pictures of the Grand Canyon appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





Bobi the birthday boy

World's oldest dog lives it up

The world's oldest dog, Bobi, recently celebrated his 31st birthday. To mark the occasion, more than 100 guests came to a party at his home in Conqueiros, Portugal. Local meats and fish were served, with extra for the guest of honor. A dance troupe also performed. Bobi is a Rafeiro do Alentejo, a Portuguese breed that is typically used to guard livestock. In February, he beat out a chihuahua mix named Spike to claim the title of oldest dog. His owner said the dog has lived so long because of his calm, peaceful surroundings. "Bobi is one of a kind," he said.



That's a gelato money!

The richest flavor of ice cream

Here's the scoop: The most expensive ice cream in the world is now selling for nearly \$7,000 a serving. The Japanese ice cream company Cellato charges the high price for its new flavor, known as Byakuya, meaning "white night" in Japanese. The Italian-style gelato, which uses ingredients imported from Italy, is made with two types of cheese, white truffles, and edible gold leaf. A Cellato representative said it took the company more than a year to develop the fancy flavor, "with a lot of trial and error to get the taste right."



It's like a cruise ship on land.

A luxurious lifestyle on the go

The motor home of the future looks something like a lighthouse crossed with a caravan. A design company in Berlin, Germany, has used a computer program to come up with what it thinks will be the future of the house on wheels. The design features living rooms, bedrooms, and study areas all in one vehicle, along with a rooftop terrace—although low bridges could be a problem. The company says the vehicle would allow people to have a break from their normal lives while keeping all the comforts of home.

Real or fake?



Did the official make the right call?

Creative solution makes a splash

A government official in India was praised for quick thinking after he found a smart solution to a lost phone. Rajesh Vishwas was taking a selfie when he accidentally dropped his phone in the Kherkatta Dam. Knowing the phone contained vital government data, he suggested pumping the water out of the reservoir to retrieve it. The phone was safely recovered, and Vishwas was given a medal for saving the day. What do you think? Does this story hold water, or is it all washed up?*

*Fake! Rajesh Vishwas did have the dam drained to find his phone, but the device was too soaked to work. And he was not honored—he was suspended and fined for wasting more than 500,000 gallons of water during a severe shortage in India.



Your turn

Editor's note

Welcome to the second week of *The Week Junior's* Summer of Reading campaign! In this issue, we have an interview with Jerry Craft, one of our Author Ambassadors. His new book, *School Trip*, is a companion to *New Kid*, the first graphic novel to win the prestigious Newbery Medal. Gail, one of our senior editors, told me her 11-year-old daughter, Fiona, recently read *School Trip* and loved it! This week we've also included books about shape-shifters, a theme in the new film *Nimona*, which is based on a graphic novel (p20). When you add these picks to "The 50 Books Kids Love Most" list we published last week, you have even more exciting options for summer reading material. (You can get the list at kids.theweekjunior.com/summerofreading.) If you're still looking for ideas, we have tips for choosing books you love (p24). And don't forget to enter our Summer of Reading sweepstakes! Find the details on page 25.

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief



Varnika, 14, Washington

Volunteering to end hunger

“We were assigned a 30-day project in our social studies class. We had to pick an issue and either learn more about it or adjust the way we lived to experience it. I chose to plan my weekly meals on a \$49 budget so I could learn about how kids experiencing hunger manage. Now that the project is over, I know a lot more about how low-income families

must plan their meals every single day. Part of this project was engaging in community activism, and I volunteered at food banks in my area. I boxed and packaged meal items, stocked shelves, and bagged snacks to be sent out across the state. Now I want to work on spreading awareness outside my community.”

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.

JOKE OF THE WEEK
What's a good name for someone who stays younger than 20 forever?
Constantine

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Seed Savers Exchange

This organization works to preserve seeds for future generations. It runs a seed bank with more than 20,000 kinds of rare seeds. The group documents the history of each variety of seed, plants some of the seeds at its farm in Iowa, and sells some through its website. In the group's gardening community, people can swap seeds with one another. Find out more at seedsavers.org.



SUMMER OF READING

Show us your favorite book!

If you're enjoying our Summer of Reading campaign, we'd love to know about it. Take a photo of yourself holding a book you recommend, and tell us why it's a good read. Have an adult email your submission to us at hello@theweekjunior.com. We will publish a selection of submissions in Issue 171. Our full list of "The 50 Books Kids Love Most" and information about how to win prizes is at kids.theweekjunior.com/summerofreading. Finally, don't miss our interview with Author Ambassador Jerry Craft on page 23!



THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.



YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"My family and I loved the no-bake cheesecake bars from the May 26 issue!"

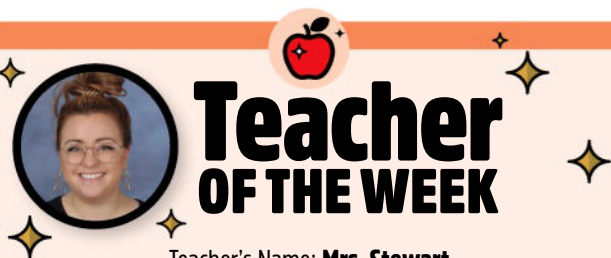
Solomon, 9, Maine

"I read the issue on *The Little Mermaid* and found out about the diabetes research in the Science section. I actually have Type 1 diabetes and was really excited to hear the news! Thank you for informing me of the news around the globe!" Shirin, 12, Texas



"I love the Animals and the Environment page. I always show appreciation to Mother Nature."

Jasper, 8, California



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mrs. Stewart**

School: **Chapel Hill Academy**

"Mrs. Stewart is the most loving, caring, thoughtful, and funniest teacher you could ever want! She always finds a way to make learning fun for everyone. She can tackle the hardest subject with humor and thoughtfulness. Mrs. Stewart definitely thinks more about her students than herself. I have absolutely loved having Mrs. Stewart as my teacher!"

Zoe, 11, Minnesota

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!

Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.



Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Word search

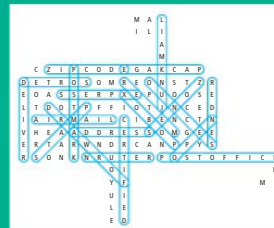
Unused letters: Mail comes to a post office in the Grand Canyon by mule.

Off sides

cramp
drama
frame

Fill in the blanks

- shallow, swallow
- property, properly
- evacuated, evaluated



Quiz answers (from page 30)

- 1 31 2 False. There are 145 moons orbiting Saturn. 3 c) 53 4 Keystone species 5 a) 1836
6 True 7 Ballister Boldheart 8 True 9 b) Paris 10 Kimberly Akimbo 11 a) Peregrine falcon
12 False. Lana's sister is captured by aliens. 13 b) Inter Miami CF 14 True 15 Japan

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz of the week

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 The world's oldest dog, Bobi, recently turned what age?

2 True or false? There are 95 moons orbiting the planet Saturn.

True ☐ False ☐

3 The University of Oklahoma softball team set a college record by winning how many games in a row?

a) 33 b) 43 c) 53

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 What is the term for a species whose ecosystem could not exist without it?

5 When was the first map of the Grand Canyon believed to have been produced?

a) 1836 b) 1869 c) 1893

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 True or false? Brontotheres, also called "thunder beasts," were the first mammals to grow to large sizes.

True ☐ False ☐

7 In the new animated movie *Nimona*, what is the name of the knight who gets framed for a crime?

8 True or false? Juneteenth is considered to be the oldest holiday celebrating Black Americans.

True ☐ False ☐



9 In the book *School Trip*, middle school friends travel to which city?

a) London b) Paris c) Rome

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 What Broadway show won the Tony Award for Best Musical on June 11?

11 In his new National Geographic series, Christian Cooper spots what bird species atop a bridge in New York City?

a) Peregrine falcon b) Barn owl

c) Red-tailed hawk

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

12 True or false? In the new video game *Planet of Lana*, a teen named Lana is captured by aliens.

True ☐ False ☐

13 Lionel Messi will continue his professional soccer career with what Major League Soccer team?

a) Atlanta United b) Inter Miami CF

c) Los Angeles Galaxy

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

14 True or false? Seahorses do not have stomachs but eat constantly.

True ☐ False ☐

15 The most expensive ice cream in the world is for sale in what country?

THE WEEK Junior

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TO JOIN THE FUN



Share the fun ...with friends!

This summer, spend some time sharing *The Week Junior* with friends. Reading together helps us connect with one another and build great friendships. When you have a reading buddy, you can talk about what you read and share your ideas and opinions.

Our Summer of Reading challenge can help bring friends together too. Pick a book and ask a friend to read the same one. Start a conversation about why you liked, or disliked, the book and see what your friend says!

And when you finish reading this issue of *The Week Junior*, consider passing this magazine on to someone else who might enjoy reading it too!

For book ideas, have your parents visit theweekjunior.com/summerofreading to download our special 2023 Summer of Reading book list.





**HUGE
HORNS**

Desert bighorn sheep live in the southwestern US, and the males have elaborate, curled horns that can grow up to 30 inches long.